

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) Sock or stocking for therapeutic use, ~~where the therapeutic treatment consists essentially of~~ comprising a partial covering and relieving of pressure on particularly exposed points or areas of ~~the~~ a foot, ~~using the~~ covering comprising a pressure-relieving pad of soft elastomeric material ~~which is placed~~ disposed over ~~the~~ an affected area of the foot and ~~fixed with the aid of~~ an elastic bandage which surrounds the foot or at least that part of the foot containing the exposed (tender) point, the elastic bandage holding the pad over the affected area, and ~~which surrounding the~~ bandage ~~is~~ comprised of forming an essentially foot-shaped sock or stocking, the sock being made of thin, flexible and ~~mainly also~~ elastic material ~~(textile of natural or artificial fibers), wherein~~ further comprising a number of the elastomeric, ~~pad like~~ padded inserts ~~are~~ fastened to ~~the~~ inner surfaces of ~~the~~ toe cavities in the foot-shaped sock or stocking in order to relieve pressure on ~~the~~ inner sides of ~~the~~ toes.

2. (currently amended) Sock or stocking as defined in claim 1, wherein the elastomeric inserts are made of a soft, almost viscous plastic, ~~for example of a known silicone-based gel type,~~ which inserts are fixed on the inner side of the bandage by thermal welding, sewing, adhesion or in another suitable manner.

3. (currently amended) Sock or stocking as defined in claim 1, wherein the sock or the stocking ~~itself~~ is made of NYLON or an equivalent thin and elastic textile, mainly of a type which

has an appropriate permeability to water vapor and which occupies as little space and causes as little inconvenience as possible.

4. (currently amended) Sock or stocking as defined in claim 1, wherein the bandage, ~~i.e.~~ forming the foot-shaped sock or stocking, is designed with separate cavities for the individual toes ~~(i.e., cavities analogous to the "fingers" in a glove)~~, and the placing of elastomeric inserts on the inner sides of these cavities designed for therapeutic relieving of pressure on tender points on the toes, mainly in the spaces between the toes.

5. (previously presented) Sock or stocking as defined in claim 4, wherein the toe cavities in question are open at the ends, the bandage terminating at the outer joints of the toes so that the outer joints of the toes with toenails protrude beyond the bandage, and wherein elastomeric inserts are positioned between all toes, and mainly also opposite the bunions on the inner and outer sides of the forefoot, and that the bandage extends back to about the middle of the forefoot.

6. (previously presented) Sock or stocking as defined in claim 4, wherein the elastomeric inserts in the toe cavities are each a circular, ring-shaped encircling of the toe in question.

7. (previously presented) Sock or stocking as defined in claim 4, wherein the bandage is prolonged backwards into an actual sock, so that the bandage both encircles the forefoot and the heel, and wherein various inserts are placed in the sock in addition to the toe inserts according to the patient's needs,

which inserts can, for example, include: one or more inserts opposite the heel, an insert for the entire length of the sole, and inserts opposite both ankle protuberances.

8. (previously presented) Sock or stocking as defined in claim 4, wherein the bandage has an increased length, mainly with termination immediately below knee height, i.e., as a knee-length stocking.

9. (previously presented) Sock or stocking as defined in claim 1, wherein the elastomeric inserts contain a drug which is successively released during the therapeutic treatment either by diffusion, evaporation or otherwise dissolving.

10. (currently amended) Sock or stocking as defined in claim 9, wherein the drug in question is a hormone, an antibiotic ~~e.g. to heal sores~~, a morphine preparation for the treatment of pain in combination with the soothing effect of the pad, or other medication appropriate to the purpose.

11. (new) Sock or stocking as defined in claim 1, wherein the material is a textile of natural or artificial fibers.

12. (new) Sock or stocking as defined in claim 1, wherein the plastic is a silicone-based gel.

13. (new) Sock or stocking for therapeutic use comprising a bandage forming a foot-shaped sock or stocking, at least one padded insert in the bandage for positioning over a desired exposed area of a foot for relieving pressure and treating the area, wherein the sock is of thin and flexible material and the at least one insert is of soft and flexible material.

14. (new) The sock or stocking of claim 13, wherein the sock is of elastic material and the at least one insert is of elastomeric material.

15. (new) The sock or stocking of claim 14, further comprising a plurality of padded inserts fastened to inner surfaces of toe cavities in the foot-shaped sock or stocking for relieving pressure on inner sides of toes.

16. (new) The sock or stocking of claim 14, wherein the elastomeric inserts are of a soft, viscous plastic material.

17. (new) The sock or stocking of claim 16, wherein the material is a silicone-based gel.

18. (new) The sock or stocking of claim 15, wherein the inserts are coupled to inner sides of the bandage by connections selected from the group consisting of thermal welding, sewing, adhesion, and combinations thereof.

19. (new) The sock or stocking of claim 14, wherein the sock or the stocking material is a thin textile having appropriate permeability to water vapor.

20. (new) The sock or stocking of claim 19, wherein the material is nylon.

21. (new) The sock or stocking of claim 14, wherein the bandage forming the foot-shaped sock or stocking comprises separate cavities for individual toes, and the elastomeric inserts on the inner sides of the cavities enable therapeutic relieving of pressure on tender points on the toes and in spaces between the toes.

22. (new) The sock or stocking of claim 21, wherein the cavities are open at ends, the bandage terminating at outer joints of the toes such that the outer joints of the toes with toenails protrude beyond the bandage, and wherein elastomeric inserts are positioned between all toes and opposite bunions on inner and outer sides of a forefoot, and wherein the bandage extends back to about a middle of the forefoot.

23. (new) The sock or stocking of claim 21, wherein each of the elastomeric inserts in the toe cavities is circular and ring-shaped for encircling of a respective toe.

24. (new) The sock or stocking of claim 21, wherein the bandage extends backwards from a forefoot into the sock or stocking thereby encircling the forefoot and a heel, further comprising additional inserts in the sock.

25. (new) The sock or stocking of claim 24, wherein the additional inserts are conformable to locations selected from a group consisting of one or more inserts opposite the heel, an insert for an entire length of a sole, inserts opposite both ankle protuberances, and combinations thereof.

26. (new) The sock or stocking of claim 21, wherein the bandage has a length sufficient for termination below a user's knee forming a knee-length sock or stocking.

27. (new) The sock or stocking of claim 13, wherein the elastomeric inserts comprise a drug for successive release during for therapeutic treatment.

28. (new) The sock or stocking of claim 27, wherein the

drug is released by a method selected from the group consisting of diffusion, evaporation, dissolution, and combinations thereof.

29. (new) The sock or stocking of claim 27, wherein the drug is selected from a group consisting of a hormone, an antibiotic, a morphine drug, soothing drug, and combinations thereof.